

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 were pending in this application and have been rejected in the Office Action.

To summarize the claim changes made in this amendment, claims 1, 2, 6 and 7 have been amended and claims 9 and 13 canceled. The amendment to claim 1 incorporates dependent claim 13 (13/1) into claim 1. Thus, claim 1 as presented herein represents claim 13 presented in independent format. Also, the amendments in claims 2, 6 and 7 have been made such that claims 2, 6 and 7 are in accord with the modified claim 1. No new matter or new issues is considered to be presented by these amendments and new claims in view of the support contained in the original filed application and the rewriting only of claim 1 as original claim 13.

Entry of these claim amendments for the purpose of placing the present application in immediate condition for allowance or for the purposes of appeal is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Ikenoya, USP 4,493,667. The Examiner recites that Ikenoya discloses the shroud wall near the intake region/intake port.

Applicants respectfully submit that cited document fails to disclose the subject matter of the claims, especially the intake port arranged near the shroud wall; a feature of independent claim 1.

In an embodiment of Applicants' disclosed invention, a scroll surface 89 is formed on a shroud wall 90 and the inner surface of a transmission case 53 along the circumference of a primary pulley 56, which has fan blades 87, so as to increase the clearance in the radial

direction of the pulley 56 between the outermost end of the fan blades 87 and the scroll surface 89 with the rotational direction of the fan blades 87.

Furthermore, as shown in Fig. 5 of the present application, the intake port 85a is formed near the shroud wall 90 so that the cooling air blows out from the intake port 85a and travels in a highly focused fashion into the intake region Ai to effectively introduce the cooling air to the fan blades 87 and the scroll surface 89.

As the result, a back pressure disturbing the flow of the cooling air can be suppressed.

Reference is made to the arguments raised in the first After Final Response of November 29, 2006 which are incorporated herein by reference. In the Remarks portion of that Response of November 29, 2006, Applicants pointed out that the focus of Ikenoya was improving recirculation of air from Chamber A to Chamber B (formed by dividing wall 41), by way of the bridge flow assembly shown in Figure 9 in Ikenoya and in its mounted state in Figures 1 and 2.

In the Final Office Action there is indicated that Applicants' claimed shroud wall is considered to be the unspecified component that is: *(attached at 47 near character 45, Figure 2) arranged independently from an inner surface of the casing, and the shroud wall has a base (where attached) and free end (where it is unattached) and near the intake region.*

A review of Ikenoya (e.g., see Col. 5, lines 6 to 11) reveals that the object "attached at 47" or fixed by screws 47 is the radially extending foot portion 48 (Fig. 9) which is a plate member that extends parallel with the dividing wall 41 so as to support "passage portion 49" which bridges the dividing wall 41. The passage portion 49 feeds into the radially, inwardly directed guide portion 50 extending to the center region of the fan. Guide portion 50 is also

a plate member extending parallel with wall 41. Thus, none of foot portion 48, passage portion 49 and guide portion represent a shroud wall on which is formed a scroll surface as set forth in claim 1. If there is some alternate component that the Examiner is referring to as a shroud wall in Ikenoya, Applicants request that it be more clearly specified by way of, for example, a marked drawing sheet as there is not seen a component that can be said to represent a shroud wall (noting that the dashed lines in the Ikenoya figure can represent an edge surface of, for example, a parallel extending dividing plate; and there is further noted the lack of any shroud wall depicted in the cross-sectional view of Figure 3, which only shows the bridge assembly of Figure 9 and the casing wall).

Also, in the Final Office Action there is set forth that Ikenoya is considered to disclose a “shroud wall” arranged near the intake region/port. As noted above, Ikenoya discloses the communication passage 45 and the passage member 46 as a cooling air introducing passage. The communication passage 45 terminates immediately above the central portion of the revolving fan 44, see Column 4, line 66 – Column 5, line 6 and Figs. 2 and 3. The cooling air travels through the communication passage 45 and blows out from the opening positioned immediately above the central portion of the revolving fan 44. This opening is limited to a region within the central part of the revolving fan 44 and has no overlapping portion with the spiral chamber 43. Applicants respectfully submit that it is clearly understood that the intake port in Ikeyama (the opening from the communication passage 45) is not arranged in that reference near the spiral chamber or the shroud wall.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 and its dependant claims are patentably distinguishable over Ikenoya.

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In view of the above remarks, Applicants submit that all rejections raised in the Office Action are overcome such that the application is in condition for allowance. Applicant looks forward to confirmation of the same at the Examiner's earliest convenience. Also, if any fees are due in connection with the filing of this amendment, such as fees under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, please charge the fees to Deposit Account 02-4300; Order No. 032405R172.

Respectfully submitted,

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